

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 171135Z AUG 78
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3302

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XH
SUBJECT: REPORTING ON PAPAL FUNERAL AND SUCCESSION

REF: STATE 295941

1. ALL HUNGARIAN DAILIES REPORTED DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI
AUGUST 8 AND TRAVEL OF STATE DELEGATION TO FUNERAL.
DELEGATION CONSISTED OF REZSO TRAUTMANN, VICE PRESIDENT OF
PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, IMRE MIKLOS, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OFFICE, AND IMRE KOCZIAN, HUNGARIAN
CHARGE IN ROME. A THREE-MEMBER CHURCH DELEGATION, HEADED
BY THE PRIMATE, CARDINAL LEKAI, ALSO ATTENDED THE FUNERAL.
A REQUIEM MASS IN ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL IN BUDAPEST
AUGUST 12, ON THE OCCASION OF THE POPE'S FUNERAL, WAS
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ATTENDED BY JUSTICE MINISTER IMRE MARKOJA AND DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER KAROLY SZARKA.

2. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG AUGUST 8 CARRIED LAUDATORY
ARTICLE ON POPE PAUL, FULLER VERSION OF WHICH APPEARED
SAME DAY IN MAGYAR NEMZET. PAUL VI IS PRAISED FOR
CONTINUING WORK OF JOHN XXIII (WHO IS HAILED AS

"REVOLUTIONARY" UNDER WHOM MORE CHANGED THAN IN WHOLE HISTORIC PERIODS BEFORE HIM). ARTICLE DESCRIBES SYMPATHETICALLY PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO POPES AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO PAUL'S DIPLOMACY DURING COMPLICATED ERA, NOTING THAT EVERY PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, OR FOREIGN MINISTER FROM A SOCIALIST COUNTRY WHO RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT RECEIVED ONE FROM VATICAN ALSO. THESE MEETINGS, ARTICLE DECLARES, MEANT MUCH MORE THAN GESTURES OF PROTOCOL AND LED TO SUBSTANTIAL DIALOGUES AND OFTEN TO AGREEMENTS FURTHER SOLUTIONS. MAGYAR NEMZET MENTIONS KADAR VISIT TO VATICAN LAST YEAR AS ESPECIALLY MEMORABLE FOR POPE PAUL'S "UNEXPECTED" SPEECH LAUDING EXCELLENT STATE-CHURCH RELATIONS IN HUNGARY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH TRIBUTE TO HIS ROLE ON ISSUES OF CSCE, DISARMAMENT, FAMINE, DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES, AND "FORCING BACK OF HATRED."

3. COMMENT: TREATMENT OF LATE POPE IS UNRESERVEDLY PSITIVE AND DEVOID OF PASSING SWIPES AT CHURCH OR BELIEVERS. WARM TONE OF COMMENT SUGGESTS GOH HAD SPECIAL FEELING FOR PONTIFF UNDER WHOM MANY OF THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WERE RESOLVED. SO FAR WE HAVE SEEN NO DISCUSSION IN HUNGARIAN PRESS OF SELECTION OF NEW POPE.

KAISER

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NNN

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